



Conservation Successes – July 2003

Cheat “River of Promise” Interpretive Trail

Grand Opening celebration raises awareness

Albright, WV (June 26, 2003) - Over 20 board members, media, students, teachers, and parents got together on a beautiful summer day to celebrate a new trail and educational program. After three years of planning and work by Friends of the Cheat, the “River of Promise Interpretive Trail” along Muddy Creek in Preston County, is open to the public. This 4-mile trail is designed to be a self-guided driving tour, as well as a learning experience for school children on guided bus trips. The National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program has assisted with development of the interpretive signs as well as a related project to preserve the Cheat Canyon for appropriate public use and enjoyment.

Ten panels are located at four sites along the stream. The signs explain acid mine drainage (AMD), caused by coal mining, and what is being done to mitigate the problems. Muddy Creek is the worst contributor of AMD to the Cheat River, a popular river for fishing, swimming, and whitewater boating. The visitor will understand and see the stream character change from clear and healthy to orange and barren. A trail map is available for download at http://www.cheat.org/Newsletters/Summer_2003/summer_2003.html. This project was supported by funding from the Canaan Valley Institute, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the WV Department of Environmental Protection’s “Stream Partners” Program. For more information, contact Peggy Pings, NPS RTCA, WV Field Office at mpings@wvu.edu or 304-293-2941 x2446.



Turning Dreams into Reality

Another One-Third Mile of Lamprey Wild & Scenic River Protected

Coastal NH (June 2003) - The Lamprey River Advisory Committee has added another 1/3 mile to the growing list of lands protected along the Lamprey Wild and Scenic River,

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which the NPS has assisted with staff support through the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. After several years of discussion, the couple who owned this riverfront property finally realized their dream for the land (which straddles the towns of Lee and Durham) when they sold a conservation easement on 52 of their 54 acres to the Strafford Rivers Conservancy. The land has subsequently been sold, with the protective easement, to new owners. Since designation as a Wild and Scenic River in 1996, landowners along the river have committed more than 1200 acres and nearly 6 miles of river frontage to permanent conservation. For additional information contact Margaret Watkins, Natural Resources Planner at margaret_watkins@nps.gov or 603-226-3240.

Things Are Flowing In The Upper Peninsula

Water Releases from Hydropower Dam Relicensing

WI/MI Upper Peninsula (Update July 7, 2003) - The National Park Service (NPS), through its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA), has been involved in hydropower relicensings throughout the upper Midwest since 1990, resulting in multiple successes for recreational flows. Some highlights of flow updates in Wisconsin/Michigan's Upper Peninsula include:

- A new white water opportunity on the Chippewa R. at Jim Falls (WI) which started July 12th. Higher, steady flows will be provided at the same site between April 1 - May 31st. (see image above)
- A new flow regime on the Black River at Hatfield (MI) which will provide more water to the peak flow level release and less to the down ramp as well as better methodology for managing the release.
- Higher, steadier flows have been provided on the Menominee River at Niagara, the Paint River at Horse Race Rapids, and Peshtigo River at Spring Rapids (all in WI).
- New releases on the Wisconsin River at Rhinelander (WI) will be provided on July 21, August 3, and August 9; an increase from past years.

Hydropower dams that are privately or municipally owned require an operating license, issued for 30-50 years, from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The NPS works collaboratively with the hydropower applicant, other state and federal resource agencies, local communities, and interest groups to make license article recommendations. On each relicensing project (a process which takes at least five years) NPS focuses on conserving riparian lands and enhancing recreational opportunities while respecting the river culture, ecosystem and economies. For more information, please contact Angie Tornes, NPS RTCA, Outdoor Recreation Planner, angie_tornes@nps.gov or 414-297-3605.



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Upper Monongahela River Water Trail

Dedication ceremony celebrates first bi-state water trail

Morgantown, WV (June 6, 2003) - As a ribbon held up by balloons stretched across the Monongahela River, over sixty officials and boaters celebrated the opening of the first water trail in West Virginia, and the first bi-state water trail in Pennsylvania. The 65-mile stretch of river from Fairmont, WV to Rices Landing, PA includes 5 locks & dams that can be accessed by recreational boaters. The Mon River Recreation Committee, Vision 2020 Program, of the Greater Morgantown Chamber of Commerce, initiated the project. The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program assisted with organizational development, stakeholder identification, strategic / action planning, identification of funding, and brochure development and mapping. On July 11, 2003 another ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Rices Landing PA. At each event, a full-color brochure was distributed detailing the water trail route, and locations and contact information of lodging, dining, suppliers, outfitters, and other amenities. For more information, please contact Peggy Pings, NPS RTCA Outdoor Recreation Planner, at mpings@wvu.edu or 304-293-2941 x2446.

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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